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# Foreign Crops and MARKETS



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L A T E      N E W S

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According to Canadian sources, feeder and slaughter cattle exports to the United States for the weeks ending January 5 and 12, were reported at 1,306 and 2,479 head, respectively. Total beef and veal exports for 1948 were given as 85,348,348 pounds.

A joint cotton agreement was concluded December 29, 1948 by the British Raw Cotton Commission, the Government of India, and authorities of Tanganyika, Kenya and Uganda, according to a report from London. Under the agreement, the British Raw Cotton Commission and the Government of India will purchase 80 percent of the 1949 cotton crop in Tanganyika, all of the 1948-49 crop in Kenya and the remainder of the 1948-49 crop in Uganda. The quantity involved is estimated at 300,000 bales (250,000 bales of 500 pounds gross). The British Raw Cotton Commission is expected to take one-third of the cotton, and the Indian Government two-thirds. No prices were mentioned in the report.

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## WORLD DRY EDIBLE PEA PRODUCTION ALMOST AT PREWAR LEVEL

Dry edible pea production in 29 countries is estimated at about 84 million bags of 100 pounds in 1948-49. Nearly all of the important producing countries are included. The current production is about 4 percent less than the 87 million bags produced in the (1935-39) prewar period and 2 percent less than was produced in these same countries in 1947.

The area harvested this season, estimated at 9.5 million acres, is 9 percent less than prewar when 10.5 million acres were harvested. Acreage is also less than in 1947 and in 1946 by about 5 percent.

The 1948 average yield per acre of 878 pounds is 26 pounds above prewar and 50 to 60 pounds more than in 1946 and 1947. Pea acreage has on the whole been declining while yields per acre have been increasing. The present level is 10 to 15 percent too low to provide the world's present population with per capita consumption at prewar levels.

China is by far the largest producer of peas. The 1948 crop of 66 million bags in 22 provinces of China constituted almost 80 percent of the total for all 29 reporting countries. The crop in China was above the previous two years but 6 percent below prewar.

The United States is the second largest producer with 3.6 million bags, which is above prewar, but only about half of the amount produced during and immediately after the war. Adverse weather at planting time together with decreased market outlook was largely responsible for the low 1948 production in America.

Production in continental Europe was 10.6 million bags, 6 percent more than in 1946 and 1947, but 3 percent less than prewar. Acreage was slightly above prewar but below last year and the year before. This means that yields have not been and are not up to prewar levels. The 1948 yield per acre in Europe is 1,083 pounds which is 76 pounds more than in 1947, 194 pounds more than 1946, but 54 pounds less than prewar.

In the few producing countries of North America, South America, Africa and in Oceania there has been a large percentage increase in dry pea production, resulting largely from the stimulus of wartime programs and prices. But these increases are more than offset by the more moderate percentage decrease in China and Europe where the great bulk of dry edible peas is produced.

(Table on following page)

Continent and country	Acreage			Yield per acre			Production (100 pound bags)		
	Average '47	1946	1947	Average '47	1946	1947	Average '47	1946	1947
NORTH AMERICA	1,925-39	1,946	1,947	1,948 1/	1,945-59	1,946	1,948 1/	1,935-59	1,946
United States	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Canada	851	119	126	94.8	1,108	821	1,108	1,253	838
Total	2231	512	520	292	1,152	1,353	1,257	2,570	1,257
Total	906	611	618	374	1,106	1,307	1,170	1,194	1,194
EUROPE									
Austria 5/	5	3	2	1,206	978	816	1,091	55	25
Belgium	183	23	174	20	2,261	1,978	2,024	1,270	407
Bulgaria	3	10	21	900	610	605	600	21	455
Czechoslovakia	36	27	26	1,167	933	708	1,044	430	264
Finland	21	26	27	1,265	899	1,058	1,058	270	226
France	50	73	74	77	1,470	1,459	1,203	705	1,149
Germany	711	522	602	1,153	923	1,162	1,162	483	1,539
Hungary	693	595	684	1,021	653	798	915	711	588
Italy	591	467	472	1,065	1,065	564	558	1,201	1,271
Netherlands	981	711	644	1,453	1,701	1,525	1,525	1,240	1,261
Norway 6/	21	22	1,794	1,907	1,907	1,904	1,904	1,240	1,240
Poland	250	1105	1155	638	601	692	662	2,094	1,240
Russia	1164	777	811	944	561	594	901	1,060	661
Spain	122	120	106	894	575	595	618	448	701
Sweden	493	56	535	1,261	1,255	1,073	1,073	671	713
United Kingdom	201	160	170	1,680	1,344	1,564	1,564	1,240	1,240
Yugoslavia	122	134	165	16	1,108	700	1,200	1,200	1,200
Total	361	1,121	987	915	1,171	893	1,007	1,063	10,931
ASIA									
Turkey 5/	7	4	44	1	514	450	427	56	18
China	8,671	7,995	7,916	16,821	733	775	827	70,533	61,678
Japan	101	33	165	20	893	915	856	767	119
Total	8,975	7,912	7,926	17,873	734	775	821	840	117,157
SOUTH AMERICA									
Argentina	5	23	41	40	400	806	905	750	20
Chili	70	51	51	50	698	675	811	700	454
Total	70	77	92	50	677	731	870	122	471
AFRICA									
Algeria	181	23	21	22	544	309	219	441	96
French Morocco	79	144	165	150	523	62	566	421	1,011
Spanish Morocco	31	4	45	5	500	675	625	600	15
Total	100	111	171	177	524	649	521	534	1,271
OCEANIA									
Australia	29	13	8	8	776	1,189	1,125	1,225	152
New Zealand	182	51	462	45	1,576	1,493	1,601	1,556	280
Total	47	64	545	53	1,063	1,392	1,595	1,491	50

Total specific countries of former years, especially in Western European countries, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, etc., less than five years average for year of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere and for beginning harvest in the Southern Hemisphere. 2/ Years shown refer to years (1933-37) for China. 3/ Preliminary. 4/ Acreage figures rounded to nearest whole number, but yields per acre calculated on basis of unrounded estimates of acreage.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research, or other information.

## WORLD DRIED APPLE PRODUCTION SMALLEST IN YEARS

The 1948 preliminary estimate of dried apple production in the 5 leading commercial producing countries is 10,600 short tons compared with 20,200 tons (revised) in 1947 and 19,000 tons (revised) in 1946. The estimate is about 45 percent of the 5-year (1942-46) average of 23,700 tons and the 10-year (1937-46) average of 23,800 tons.

Australia is the only country of the 5 commercial producers showing an increase over the previous year. The United States estimate obtained from trade sources indicates the smallest output in over a quarter of a century. Output in Canada dropped to near prewar average.

**APPLES, DRIED:** Estimated commercial production in specified countries, averages 1937-46 and 1942-46, annual 1944-1948

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Year	Australia	Canada	New Zealand	South Africa	Union of	Foreign total	United States	World total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Average								
1937-46	1,200	4,000	a/	200	b/ 5,400	18,400	b/ 23,800	
1942-46	1,900	4,700	a/	200	b/ 6,800	16,900	b/ 23,700	
Annual								
1944	c/ 2,300	6,700	200	200	c/ 9,400	17,000	c/ 26,400	
1945	2,000	800	200	100	c/ 3,100	14,500	c/ 17,600	
1946	c/ 2,000	2,200	200	100	c/ 4,500	14,500	c/ 19,000	
1947 d/	c/ 1,500	c/ 3,300	300	100	c/ 5,200	c/ 15,000	c/ 20,200	
1948 d/	1,800	2,000	200	100	c/ 4,100	(6,500)	10,600	

a/ No production prior to 1944.

b/ Excluding New Zealand. c/ Revised. d/ Preliminary.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States foreign service officers, results of office research or other information.

Disposal of the pack in Australia offered no serious problem during the marketing year. Exports totalled about 1,000 tons during the season and the balance was easily disposed of in the domestic market. Exports were chiefly to nearby British areas and the United Kingdom. The production in New Zealand was insufficient to take care of domestic needs so a small tonnage was imported from Australia. The New Zealand industry is small and had its origin during the war.

The Canadian dried apple market in 1947 was definitely a slow one and accounts to a large extent for the large reduction in the 1948 pack. The assistance of the Dominion Agricultural Price Support Board was required to handle the 1947 crop. The market was almost at a standstill until October of 1948. It is reported dried apples were offered free to any institution willing to pay the freight on them. The smaller apple harvest in British Columbia in 1948 also contributed to a smaller output of dried apples. The Canadian output in 1948 is about equal to normal consumption so that no serious marketing problem is anticipated during the 1948-49 marketing season. Prices at the start of the season were around 15 cents per pound. Exports may be made from the 1948 pack, but probably will not amount to much tonnage. It is desired to have the dried apple pack completely disposed of before the 1949 apple harvest. Dried apple production in the Union of South Africa is very small and usually just about meets the needs of the country. This small production is of no importance in the international trade in this item.

United States production was at a low level because of the poor market for this product during the 1947-48 season. Exports during that season totalled only 475 short tons or less than a third of normal pre-war years. The prices were reported less than production costs in many instances. The present marketing season has been relatively active due to the small supply available and a consequent increase in price. Exports during the first three months of the season have totalled 244 short tons of which 174 tons were sent to Palestine during September. The balance of the exports were to many different countries in small lots. The largest export shipment thus far reported to other countries than Palestine was 23 tons to the Netherland Indies. Present indications are 1948-49 exports will not exceed those of the previous year.

#### UNITED STATES: Exports of dried apples

Year a/	United	France	Nether	Sweden	Denmark	Norway	Canada	coun	Other	Total
	Kingdom		lands					tries		
	short	Short	short	short	short	short	short	short	short	short
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons
Average	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
1937-46	: 2,729	: 510	: 1,396	: 720	: 109	: 129	: 54	: 1,374	: 7,021	
1942-46	: 3,373	: 25	: 15	: 284	: 0	: 56	: 73	: 1,111	: 4,937	
Annual	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
1944-45	: 4,246	: 122	: 0	: 0	: 0	: 0	b/	: 868	: 5,236	
1945-46	: 65	b/	: 23	b/	: 0	: 279	: 65	: 1,014	: 1,446	
1946-47	: 2,545	b/	: 1	: 53	: 1,421	: 0	: 0	: 277	: 695	: 4,992
1947-48	: 439	b/	: 121	: 0	: 0	: 16	: 352	: 475	: 1,403	
1948-49 c/	: 0	: 0	: 14	: 0	: 0	: 0	: 3	: 227	: 244	

a/ Crop year, August-July. b/ Less than one-half ton. c/ Three months, August through October.

## COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDSU.S. RICE EXPORTS  
LARGEST SINCE MAY

United States rice exports during November were the largest in 6 months; amounting to about 118 million pounds. Monthly exports for the first quarter of the current August-July marketing year in millions of pounds, were: August, 19; September, 41; and October, 83. August-November 1948 exports were somewhat less than during the corresponding period of the preceding year. This was because exports to Cuba in the latter part of 1947 were considerably above average.

About 84 percent of November exports were shipped to the Western Hemisphere countries, Cuba, Canada, and the British West Indies. Rough rice deliveries to Canada amounted to 16 million pounds. Exports to European countries consisted of about 7 million pounds to Austria and 1 million to Greece.

RICE: United States exports to specified countries,  
November 1948, with comparisons a/

Continent or country	August-July		August-November		November	
	: 1937-38: 1947-48		: 1947 : 1948		: 1947 : 1948	
	: to : b/		: b/ : b/		: b/ : b/	
	: 1941-42:	: Million :pounds				
Europe.....	43	22	1	15	c/	8
Cuba.....	275	527	306	180	128	87
Canada.....	19	54	25	17	11	10
Br. West Indies..	c/	11	1	3	c/	2
China.....	d/	203	0	12	0	0
Korea.....	d/	54	8	4	0	0
Netherlands Indies.....	d/	1	c/	25	0	10
Other countries.	21	23	2	5	2	1
Total.....	358	895	343	261	141	118

a/ Includes milled rice, brown, broken, screenings and rough rice converted to milled at 65 percent. b/ Preliminary. c/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

d/ If any, included in other countries.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

### CUBA PRODUCES RECORD RICE CROP

Cuba's 1948 rice harvest is estimated at about 3,000,000 bushels (88 million pounds milled) compared with the previous largest crop of 2,870,000 bushels (84 million pounds) the year before. This year's harvest is about 3 times as large as production before the war.

Harvesting was nearly completed at the end of December, and the crop was entering the market in volume. With stocks said to be sufficient for about 2 months' requirements, importers were comparatively inactive. The domestic crop supplies about 15 percent of Cuba's rice consumption.

### AUSTRALIA INCREASES RICE ACREAGE

The Australian rice acreage planted in the 1948-49 season is estimated at 33,000 acres, compared with 26,000 acres harvested in 1947-48, according to a report from the American Consulate General, Sydney. Heretofore, all the rice has been cultivated in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area of New South Wales. The planted acreage in that area this season was about the same as in the year before, 27,300 acres planted against 26,200 acres harvested in the preceding year. However, in the Tullakool section of the same district, this year 6,100 acres additional were planted.

Cool weather caused early growth to be slow, but hot weather in the latter part of December had a beneficial effect on the crop. No official forecast has yet been made, but if the season continues to be reasonably good, a near-record production of nearly 3,000,000 bushels may be produced compared with approximately 2,500,000 bushels in the preceding year. The record output of 3,750,000 bushels was harvested in 1943-44.

### COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

#### COTTON SUPPLIES RUNNING LOW IN CHINESE COASTAL MILLS

Supplies of raw cotton in Chinese coastal mills are running low and the mills face a critical situation. Supplies of domestic cotton have been completely exhausted with only negligible quantities reaching the mills from the 1948 crop. Stocks of imported cotton have been reduced to a point where mills can only operate on a day to day basis as additional cotton is allocated to them.

The Chinese started the season on August 1, 1948 with 440,000 bales (500 pounds gross) of commercial stocks and 310,000 bales of unallocated United States aid cotton still at the port. Commercial stocks were made up of 180,000 bales of imported cotton and 260,000 bales of domestic cotton from the 1947 crop in coastal centers.

Stocks in coastal mills have been reduced to near one-week's supply according to the best available estimates. Port stocks at Shanghai were reported at 250,000 bales on November 30, 1948. This consisted of 198,000 bales of United States aid cotton and 52,000 bales of commercial stocks. Commercial port stocks consisted of 29,000 bales Indian cotton, 11,000 bales United States cotton, and 12,000 bales African, Egyptian, and Brazilian cotton.

Total supplies available to coastal mills probably did not exceed 350,000 bales in December. This would consist almost entirely of stocks as no significant imports were expected in December.

Last spring the coastal mills were consuming about 150,000 bales of cotton per month. During the summer and fall months consumption was maintained at about 135,000 bales per month. As supplies of domestic cotton and commercial imports were exhausted they were supplemented with United States aid cotton. However, supplies of aid cotton are limited when considered in light of the requirements of the Chinese people. The Government released 45,000 bales of cotton to the mills in October, 70,000 bales in November and probably about 50,000 bales in December of 1948. On January 1, 1949 probably not more than 145,000 bales remained in aid cotton stocks.

The Economic Cooperation Administration authorized an additional 15 million dollars for cotton in December but this cotton has not yet arrived in China. The Chinese report they have collected 200,000 bales from their 1948 cotton crop but this cotton is mostly in interior collection centers and probably inaccessible to coastal mills. Practically all transportation from interior areas to the coast has been suspended.

About 85 percent of the Chinese cotton spindles are located in areas. Sixty five percent or 3 million spindles are located in the Shanghai area and 360,000 in Tsingtao. They are practically cut off from domestic cotton supplies and are dependent on imported cotton. Tientsin with 432,000 spindles is completely isolated.

The remaining 15 percent or 800,000 spindles are located in interior areas and have ample supplies of domestic cotton. About 500,000 of these spindles are still in Nationalist controlled territory. The largest part (315,000 spindles) are in the Chungking and Hankow areas. The fate of 235,000 spindles in Manchuria is unknown. If these mills are still in existence they have only limited supplies of domestic cotton.

#### SPANISH MILLS REDUCE OPERATIONS

A shortage of electric power due to a severe drought in Spain forced cotton mills to reduce operation in October and November according to Robert N. Adis, American Vice Consul, at Barcelona.

Spain has been suffering from drought for the past few months causing a serious shortage of water supplies and available electric power has been far short of requirements.

Mills were restricted to an average of about 2 days a week in November, except in some cases an extra day was allowed to mills producing goods for export. However, some of the larger mills were able to work 6 days a week by using their own plants, powered by steam or gas-oil. Consequently it was estimated that about 70 percent of the spinning mills were able to operate two shifts on an average of 4 days per week.

During the 1947-48 season cotton consumption in Spanish mills averaged about 28,000 bales (480 pounds net) per month. During November consumption probably dropped to about 50 percent of this average. In the pre-civil war period of 1933 to 1935 Spanish mills consumed an average of about 35,000 bales per month.

Supplies of raw cotton in Spain have also been limited for the past few years. Because of the short supply of dollars the Spanish Government carefully screens all requests for dollar exchange. Approval is given only for the expenditure of dollars for commodities most urgently needed which cannot be bought elsewhere. Since 1946 very little exchange has been granted for purchase of American cotton.

Cotton has been received largely from Brazil and other Latin American countries, and India. Spain has a trade agreement with Argentina and recently has been receiving increased supplies from this source.

A revised supply and distribution of cotton in Spain for the 1947-48 season has been reported as follows:

	Bales of 500 pounds gross
Stocks August 1, 1947	
at mills	29,000
at ports 1/	61,000
elsewhere	7,000
Total stocks	<u>97,000</u>
Imports	261,000
Production	<u>13,000</u>
Total supply	<u>371,000</u>
Consumption	333,000
Stocks July 31, 1948	
at mills	28,000
at ports 1/	10,000
elsewhere	-
Total stocks	<u>38,000</u>
Total distribution	<u>371,000</u>

1/ Includes free port cotton or cotton in bonded warehouses for which Spanish exchange has not been arranged.

FATS AND OILSTHE LARD AND TALLOW  
SITUATION IN COLOMBIA

Production of hog lard in Colombia has remained fairly steady over a number of years with an estimated 10-year average output of 11,700 short tons, according to a report from the American Embassy, Bogota a/. The 1947 production is estimated at 11,404 short tons and the 1948 production at 11,526 tons.

In Colombia, because lard is normally more expensive than pork, it is profitable to trim the carcass closely and render all separable fat for lard. Lard type hogs are preferred, and in the Atlantic Coast region a locally developed breed called "songo," reputedly produces lard at rates approaching 50 percent of carcass weight.

COLOMBIA: Production of lard and tallow, 1948  
with comparisons

Year	Hog lard 1/	Tallow 2/
	Short tons	Short tons
Average 1936-1940.....	10,802	13,229
Average 1941-1945.....	11,963	14,730
1945.....	11,636	15,821
1946.....	12,361	16,627
1947.....	11,404	17,851
1948 3/ .....	11,526	17,952

1/ Computed by Embassy from officially reported hog slaughter, with fat output per animal estimated on basis of all known data. Lard is estimated at 37.2 pounds per head.

2/ Computed by Embassy from officially reported cattle slaughter, with an assumed average output of 26.4 pounds per head.

3/ Preliminary estimate.

American Embassy, Bogata.

Lard imports have fluctuated widely. Between 1926 and 1930 an average of 10,538 short tons entered the country annually. For the period 1933-35 imports dropped to an average of about 24 tons annually. Imports since 1936 have varied with the supply of domestic fats and oils. Since 1944 the Colombian Government has sought to import more lard. Out of a total of 9,830 tons of lard imported during the 3-year period, 1944-46 inclusive, the United States supplied 6,308 tons and almost all of the remainder, or 3,467 tons came from Argentina.

a/ This report was prepared by Kenneth Wernimont, Agricultural Attaché and John G. Gossett, Third Secretary of the Embassy.

While lard imports for the 4 years ending 1947 averaged more than 3,201 short tons annually, only 1,020 tons were imported between January 1 and October 15, 1948.

COLOMBIA: Imports of Animal Fats, 1948  
with comparisons

Year	Beef Tallow		
	Hog Lard	Edible	For Industrial Use
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
1938	978	52	410
1939	7,757	33	1,750
1940	5,047	46	1,267
1941	624	65	2,023
1942	79	48	2,144
1943	24	86	898
1944	4,357	535	2,358
1945	4,176	535	2,672
1946	1,297	221	493
1947	2,971	1,650	275
1948 1/	1,277	1,650	275

1/ Preliminary estimate.

American Embassy, Bogata.

During the last 10 years estimated consumption of hog lard in Colombia has varied between 18,986 tons in 1939 and 12,624 tons in 1942. Consumption in 1947 was estimated at 14,404 tons.

Hog lard is preferred to vegetable shortening by a majority of Colombians, and consistently sells for 2.9 to 11.4 cents more per pound than vegetable lard. Moreover, vegetable shortening can be produced locally at a lower dollar cost for raw materials than the dollar cost of imported lard, and the general policy has been to encourage the domestic vegetable shortening industry.

Hog lard prices reached 74 cents per pound on the Bogota market in September 1948, compared with prices of 54 cents in September 1947. In October, 1941, lard sold in Bogota for 13 cents. Lard is commonly subject to speculation, and the official and black market prices both fluctuate rather widely from week to week.

Tallow production has been steadily increasing, and is now nearly 50 percent higher than in 1939. The 1947 production is estimated at 17,851 short tons, and the 1948 output at 17,952 short tons. Cattle dressed in the larger cities produce 33 or 35 pounds per carcass, but less fat per head is sold as tallow from cattle slaughtered in small towns and rural areas. The average production for the entire country is assumed to be 26.4 pounds of tallow per head.

Colombian imports of edible beef tallow have varied during the last 10 years between 33 short tons in 1939 and 1,650 tons in 1947 and 1948. During recent years Argentina has been the largest single supplier.

Industrial tallow has been imported in larger quantities than the edible product. The average annual importation of inedible tallow for the period 1937-1941 was 1,164 tons. During the next 4 years an average of 2,018 tons entered the country annually. In 1946, however, imports dropped to 493 tons. Argentina is Colombia's largest supplier of inedible tallow.

The United States is a source of some imports. Only 282 tons of all kinds of tallow entered the country between January 1 and September 15, 1947. Since domestic tallow production has been increasing and since the dollar situation has been critical, 1948 tallow imports probably did not exceed those during 1947.

Consumption of beef tallow has been climbing steadily for a number of years, reaching a high of more than 18,700 tons in 1945 compared with an average of 14,054 in the 5-year period of 1936-40. Consumption appears to have dropped to less than 17,650 tons in 1946 and approached 18,700 in 1947. Soap and candle makers are the largest consumers, but beef tallow is now the largest single ingredient in most of the soap produced in Colombia. The increase in tallow consumption may be attributed partly to the increasing difficulty experienced by soap manufacturers in obtaining other fats and oils.

Officially reported retail prices in Bogota for first quality raw tallow have risen from 16 cents per pound at the beginning of 1947 to 26 cents per pound in November 1948. The legal wholesale purchase price at the municipal slaughterhouse was 19 cents per pound. Bogota tallow prices are somewhat higher than elsewhere in the country due to the concentration of soap and candle factories in the capital city.

#### NEW GUINEA AND PAPUA COPRA PRODUCTION EXPECTED TO INCREASE

Copra production in Australian New Guinea and Papua for 1948-49 is expected to show a sizable increase over that of recent years but is still only slightly more than half the prewar outturn, according to information from the American Consulate General, Sydney, Australia.

Output is roughly estimated at 48,000 long tons, 11,000 from Papua and 37,000 from New Guinea. Estimated potential production is said to be 65,000 tons, whereas 91,000 tons were reached before the war. In 1946-47 production fell to a low of 7,572 tons; 4,405 came from Papua and 3,167 from New Guinea.

Because the effects of the war are still apparent in New Guinea and Papua, copra production has not regained prewar levels. Many plantations had been partially or wholly destroyed; younger growths particularly suffered. Some planters disappeared during the Japanese occupation, and properties consequently were neglected. In some instances coconut groves were sacrificed to permit erection of military installations. Palms which survived the direct war damage of bombing and strafing were found choked with dense jungle growth. In addition, pest infestation, beetles, weevils, and grasshoppers, have wrought considerable havoc.

Future production probably will be affected by the administration's policy of encouraging coconut planting by natives who own much of the area of New Guinea and Papua. It is unlikely that white planters will be allowed to acquire much more land.

Prewar output of native-owned plantations was 8,000 to 9,000 tons yearly. Although copra from this source is only a fraction of the former output, it is believed that a greater proportion will be forthcoming. Native planters do not have as many labor problems as the white owners.

In actual practice, the production of copra is regulated by the Production Control Board in New Guinea, which is responsible to the Minister for External Territories. The official purpose of the Board is to "assist and encourage production of copra". The Government's plan, announced last June, to abolish the Board and permit private traders to handle the business, has not yet been implemented. At present no copra can be exported from New Guinea without a permit from the Minister of External Territories, and in actual practice such permits are granted only to the Board. At present the Board purchases all copra for commercial use, which it stores, sells, and ships.

Local consumption of copra is considered very small. There have been proposals for erecting a large copra-crushing plant in New Guinea to treat copra at the source instead of shipping it to Australia. However, the erection of such a plant may not be feasible until New Guinea is better developed.

Most of the crushing plants in Australia are under the control of one firm and are capable of treating about 35,000 tons, or roughly Australia's requirements.

Shipping services inter-island and to Australia have been inadequate and irregular, but are slowly improving. The principal difficulty appears to be in collecting the material from the small islands.

Although the greater part of the copra produced in New Guinea and Papua is shipped to Australia, small amounts go to the United Kingdom and Canada. From 1939-1942 this source supplied one-third to one-half of Australia's requirements and since 1944 nearly 100 percent.

Since 1944-45 Australia has received only a small percentage of normal copra requirements--9,000 to 15,000 tons compared with 30,000 tons prewar. Of the 30,000 tons required per year normally 16,000 tons are used in soap production, but because of the high cost of copra relative to that of tallow, estimates of usage for that purpose have been lowered to about 8,000 tons. The remainder is used for margarine, both for domestic use and for export.

Considerable dissatisfaction is felt by planters because of the differential in the price paid by Australia and that offered by other buyers. However, they do not want governmental control to be lifted altogether. On the other hand, buyers in Sydney want preferential price treatment guaranteed. The Australian price has doubled since 1944--from EA 30:10:0 (\$98.75) a ton delivered Sydney to EA 61:0:0 (\$197.50).

#### MALAYAN COPRA EXPORTS FOR OCTOBER SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN IN SEPTEMBER

Exports of copra and coconut oil from Malaya during October 1948 were slightly higher than in September. Copra shipments of 6,832 tons and coconut-oil shipments of 4,347 brought the 10-month totals to 45,085 and 38,674 tons, respectively. In the corresponding months of 1947, 5,960 tons of copra and 34,575 of coconut oil were exported.

October imports of copra, principally from the Netherlands Indies, amounted to 6,553 tons and of coconut oil only 180. January-October figures totaled 72,844 and 3,012 tons, respectively.

The principal oil mills of Malaya and Singapore reported an output of 8,557 tons of coconut oil from 16,211 tons of copra in October, compared with 8,351 from 15,521 in September.

(Table on following page)

MALAYA: Copra and coconut oil exports and imports,  
October 1948 with comparisons  
(Long tons)

Country	Copra distribution				
	Average	1947	January	September	October
	1935-39		1947 a/	1948 a/	1948 a/
<u>Exports</u>	:	:	:	:	:
United Kingdom.....	57,750	6,119	4,444	1,181	-
Other European countries....	118,490	-	-	34,608	5,530
Other British Possessions....	3,242	-	-	-	-
Hong Kong.....	-	999	10	28	-
Other countries.....	12,209	-	-	2,436	1,302
Total.....	191,691	7,118	4,454	38,253	6,832
<u>Imports</u>	:	:	:	:	:
British Possessions.....	10,617	582	472	2,866	892
Netherlands Indies.....	105,500	51,877	37,993	62,680	5,618
Other countries.....	2,134	147	145	745	43
Total.....	118,251	52,606	38,610	66,291	6,553
	:	:	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	:
Country	Coconut-oil distribution				
	Average	1947	January	September	October
	1935-39		1947 a/	1948 a/	1948 a/
<u>Exports</u>	:	:	:	:	:
United Kingdom.....	8,857	27,239	20,410	3,333	-
Other European countries....	2,522	643	500	15,755	1,918
Other British Possessions....	24,011	255	194	77	15
Burma.....	b/ 3,907	6,674	4,612	2,644	583
Hong Kong.....	b/ 1,391	5,763	3,067	6,196	958
Netherlands Indies.....	2,557	2,357	1,876	245	49
Other countries.....	3,864	234	104	6,077	824
Total.....	47,109	43,165	30,763	34,327	4,347
	:	:	:	:	:
<u>Imports</u>	:	:	:	:	:
British Possessions.....	16	242	92	160	-
Netherlands Indies.....	328	1,853	821	2,672	180
Other countries.....	229	50	49	-	-
Total.....	573	2,145	962	2,832	180

a/ Preliminary. b/ 2 year average.

American Consulate General, Singapore.

**U.S. EXPORTS OF SPECIFIED  
FATS, OILS, AND OILSEEDS**

The following table shows United States exports of specified fats, oils, and oilseeds during January-November 1948 with comparisons:

**UNITED STATES: Exports of specified fats, oils, and oilseeds,  
January-November 1948 with comparisons**

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	1946	1947	a/ 1947 a/	January-November 1947 a/	1948 a/
Soybeans.....	1,000 bu.	b/	4,793	2,906	2,505	2,213	3,957
Soybean oil:							
Refined.....	" lbs.	c/	(6,647	72,583	38,883	30,221	35,868
Crude.....	" "			13,228	68,395	57,610	40,066
Coconut oil:							
Refined.....	" "		3,789	935	5,491	3,626	8,952
Crude.....	" "		10,442	47,366	52,427	50,852	9,567
Cottonseed oil:							
Refined.....	" "		4,793	5,857	10,977	9,465	20,827
Crude.....	" "		1,515	244	901	84	7,779
Flaxseed.....	1,000 bu.	c/		20	16	15	128
Linseed oil.....	1,000 lbs		1,280	1,625	d/9,854	5,811	26,994
Peanuts:							
Shelled.....	" "	c/	( 452	61,043	212,253	148,066	403,446
Not shelled.....	" "			7,066	18,681	16,420	9,162
Peanut oil, refined..	" "	e/	325	75	1,579	815	670
Cooking fats.....	" "		2,111	11,424	3,594	3,237	2,973
Lard.....	" "		165,636	430,682	380,735	358,448	230,722
Oleomargarine.....	" "		180	50,483	19,954	17,409	3,158
Tallow:							
Edible.....	" "		( 1,651	4,151	601	601	1,277
Inedible.....	" "	c/		6,472	54,553	52,333	54,488

a/ Preliminary. b/ Average of less than 5 years.

c/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation.

d/ Revised. e/ 1939 only.

Compiled from official sources.

**U.S. IMPORTS OF SPECIFIED  
VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS**

The following table shows United States imports of specified vegetable oils and oilseeds during January-November 1948 with comparisons:

**UNITED STATES: Imports a/ of specified oils and oilseeds,  
January-November 1948 with comparisons.**

Commodity	Unit	Average : 1935-39 :	1946	1947 b/	January-November 1947 b/	1948 b/
Babassu kernels..	1,000 lbs.	c/	39,463	22,233	22,013	47,469
Babassu oil.....	" "	d/	346	2,314	1,747	1,523
Castor-beans....	" "		132,924	226,295	276,807	240,631
Castor oil.....	" "		226	6,450	6,595	6,595
Flaxseed.....	" bu.		18,470	3,394	282	280
Linseed oil.....	" lbs.		713	94,405	117,326	117,325
Copra.....	Short tons		230,000	394,696	677,660	591,832
Coconut oil.....	1,000 lbs.		342,717	2,353	23,559	18,479
Oiticica oil....	" "	d/	7,673	22,593	8,471	8,207
Olive oil:						
Edible.....	" "		62,811	12,660	11,250	10,388
Inedible.....	" "		35,448	103	248	234
Palm oil.....	" "		321,482	37,850	63,212	57,368
Sesame seed.....	" "		58,425	4,891	9,479	9,316
Tea seed oil....	" "		13,159	88	6,377	6,130
Tucum kernels...	" "	e/	9,810	12,709	16,887	16,887
Tung oil.....	" "		123,190	36,207	121,564	104,821

a/ Imports for consumption. b/ Preliminary. c/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation. d/ Average of less than 5 years.  
e/ 1939 only.

Compiled from official sources.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

(Continued from page 38)

**COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS  
ON FOREIGN MARKETS**

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets converted at current rates of exchange:

**COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, and the  
U.S. gulf-port average**

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1949	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria	:	:Kantar	:	:	
Ashmouni, Good.....	1-13	: 99.05 lbs.	:Tallari	: 59.75	: 49.86
Ashmouni, F.G.F.....	"	"	"	: 57.75	: 48.19
Karnak, Good.....	"	"	"	: 95.95	: 80.06
Karnak, F.G.F.....	"	"	"		(not:quoted)
Bombay	:	:Candy	:	:	:
Jarila, Fine.....	"	: 78 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> lbs.	:Rupee	: 620.00	: 23.86
Broach, Fine.....	"	"	"	: 650.00	: 25.01
Kampala, East African.....	"	"	"		(not:available)
Karachi	:	:Maund	:	:	
4F Punjab, S.G., Fine.....		: 82.28 lbs.	"		
289F Sind, S.G., Fine.....		"	"		
289F Punjab, S.G., Fine....		"	"		
Buenos Aires	:	:Metric ton	:	:	
Type E.....	1-13	: 2204.6 lbs.	:Peso	:a/ 3350.00	: 45.24
Lima	:	:Sp. quintal	:	:	
Tanguis, Type 5.....	1-11	: 101.4 lbs.	:Sol	:b/	(not:quoted)
Pima, Type 1.....	"	"	"	:b/	(not:quoted)
Recife	:	:Arroba	:		
Mata, Type 4.....	1-13	: 33.07	:Cruzeiro	: 195.00	: 32.08
Sertao, Type.....	"	"	"	: 200.00	: 32.90
Sao Paulo	:	:	:		
Sao Paulo, Type 5.....	"	"	"	: 212.00	: 34.88
Torreon	:	:Sp. quintal	:		
Middling, 15/16".....	"	: 101.4 lbs.	:Peso	: 181.50	: 26.01
Houston-Galveston-New	:	:	:		
Orleans av. Mid. 15/16"....	"	:Pound	:Cent	:XXXXX	: 32.22
	:	:	:	:	

Quotations of foreign markets reported by cable. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

a/ Nominal.

b/ Lima, January 4, "not quoted."

